



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE NETS 20 VIOLENT MIAMI CRIMINALS

Arrests part of ICE's continued mission to keeping our communities safe

MIAMI— A 60-year-old citizen of Peru convicted on four counts of lewd and lascivious assault on a child under 16 years of age and three counts of sexual battery was among 20 violent criminals arrested here during a three-day U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operation.

Manuel Cesar Garcia pleaded guilty to all charges in a Miami-Dade court on Feb. 8, 2005. Garcia became a lawful permanent resident of the United States on Dec. 1, 1989. He is now removable from the country based on his aggravated felony convictions. ICE has placed him in administrative removal proceedings and is seeking the revocation of his lawful status.

Also arrested was 23-year-old Justo Mendieta, a citizen of Nicaragua convicted on Jan. 2, 2004 for aggravated battery with great bodily harm and for possessing marijuana within 100 feet of a school. Mendieta has been a lawful permanent resident since Oct. 17, 2000. He too will have to appear before an immigration judge for possible removal from the country.

“Having a legal status in this country is not a ticket to hurt the innocent,” said John Paletti, ICE’s acting special agent-in-charge in Miami. “We are committed to keeping our community safe and will continue to identify and arrest those who are a danger and removable.”

Those arrested had criminal histories ranging from drug possession and aggravated assault to drug trafficking and battery with a deadly weapon. They represent 12 different countries including Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Honduras, Vietnam, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, El Salvador, Bahamas and Jamaica.

All are in ICE custody awaiting the outcome of their cases.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.